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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 20 | Humidity 55% Partly Cloudy Sensex 64,996 | Nifty 19,306 | Gold 58,810 | Silver 73,554 | Dollar 82.59 | Euro 89.25 | GBP 103.97

DOGGONE SHAME

Are illegal breeding centres behind rise in pet dog thefts?

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CIRCLES OF DESPAIR

Waste dumping, public urination, bad roads — BTM's cup runneth over

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Bengaluru has a special bond with its lakes and its citizens would try all ideas to put the spotlight on issues plaguing waterbodies in their areas

LAKE VALLEY CIVILISATION

An Eco Chaupal to discuss issues or a ritualistic celebration to put focus on lakes?

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Bengalureans have a special bond with their lakes. They go all the way to draw attention to various issues related to lakes in their vicinity, some so creative that the policy-makers too have to sit up and take notice. Take for example the Avalahalli Lake - Many residents from various apartment complexes in Yelahanka gathered under a tree on Sunday morning to discuss issues related to the lake, its rajakaluve, and other issues such as garbage dumping and encroachment.

The event, termed Eco Chaupal by the locals, was an unstructured panchayat-type meeting with a free flow of ideas to save their water body and surrounding biodiversity in simple ways.

"About 25 residents from different apartments participated. We have adopted a buffer area near Krishna Sagar, Avalahalli in North Bangalore. We planted 101 trees in this area and are watering them regularly. In this area, we had arranged a meeting to discuss the upkeep

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"We planted 101 trees in this buffer zone near Krishna Sagar and are watering them regularly. In this area, we had arranged a meeting to discuss the upkeep of the saplings planted as there was no rain** –Resident of Yelahanka

Love, sex & betrayal

It's all playing out on dating apps as those seeking love end up losing money to extortionists

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A big chunk of Bengaluru's population may have already used or are thinking of using dating apps. Dating apps that work as a platform for people to meet and maybe find life partners, are turning out to be a big hunting ground for 'sextortionists' and frauds.

HSR Layout Police have arrested two accused who used to extort people through an online dating app. The accused have been identified as Nadeem Pasha and Nagesh.

These accused, who targeted the users of the dating app, first created a fake account posing as women. They would post photos of beautiful unknown young women. At first, they used to send messages from the account and talk to strangers. As soon as they knew that the victim was convinced about the identity, they would send a location to the victim.

After that, they used to kidnap and extort them at knife point. They used to extort money and jewellery and withdraw

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Time and romance

Don't miss the chance to watch the 90-minute sci-fi romantic drama based on Einstein's laws of time and Shakespearean whimsies of love. 'Love in the Cholera of Time' is set to be staged in the coming month, produced by Tahatto Theatre. The play is based on two individuals who exist in different eras and, however, fall in love in the middle of time.
Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: September 3; 3:30 pm and 7 pm

02 Concert hour

The incredible talent of Ustad Taufiq Qureshi, Vijay Prakash, Priyanka Barve, Satyajit Talwalkar, Sridhar Parthasarthy, Shikhar Naad, Ajay Joglekar, and Kaushiki Joglekar are set to enthrall the audience at the highly-anticipated 'BOL' Concert.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: Friday, September 1; 6:30 pm

03 Best of plays

Grab the chance to watch an interesting Kannada play called Asangatagalu, which is a collection of absurd plays by playwright Chandrashekhar Pati (Champa). It is directed by Basavaraj Emmiyavar. The team, Kalavilasi, has chosen Kunta Kunta Kuravatti, Appa, and Kodegalu with authentic flavours of North Karnataka custom and dialect.
Where: Kalagrama Auditorium near Bangalore University
When: September 2; 7:30 pm

Happy times
People buying vegetables, bananas, and different other products for Onam festival at Onam Chantha 2023, organised by the members of the Kerala Samajam Dooravani Nagar at NRI Layout, TC Palya, in Bengaluru on Monday

Pixels to proficiency

Nine universities in Karnataka receive permission from UGC to start online courses; these courses to attract participants across globe

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With the easing of covid-related lockdowns and restrictions, colleges have transitioned back to physical classes. However, a new wave of change is on the horizon as several universities in the state prepare to embrace the online realm by introducing distance learning courses. Following the green light from the University Grants Commission (UGC), these universities are gearing up to provide a diverse array of courses online, and it's anticipated that these virtual offerings will provide a much-needed financial boost for the cash-strapped institutions. Among the selected institutions, five universities, including Bangalore University, Visvesvaraya Technological University, and the University of Mysore, have been granted permission to launch distance learning programmes. Additionally, four deemed universities have also received similar approval.

A prime example of this shift is the VTU, which is stepping into the arena of distance education for the first time. Historically, this engineering-focused institution has exclusively adhered to traditional in-person modes of instruction.

VTU's Vice-Chancellor, S Vidyashankar, stated, "Until now, we had exclusively offered on-campus courses. We submitted a proposal to the UGC earlier, and now we have secured the required permission. The registration process for these online courses will commence shortly."

Online programmes will grant students the flexibility to learn

> **"Until now, we had exclusively offered on-campus courses. We submitted a proposal to the UGC earlier, and now we have secured the required permission**
>
> –S Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor, VTU

VTU is all set to provide a selection of online courses, including a three-year programme in digital marketing, a two-year course in human resource management, a three-year course in data sciences, a two-year course in artificial intelligence and data science, a two-year programme in big data analytics, and a two-year course in software testing.

A VTU official highlighted, "Online programmes grant students the flexibility to learn at their own pace, from the comfort of their homes. They provide practical skills and hands-on projects, enabling the application of theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios. Even in the online format, students can engage with professors and peers from diverse backgrounds, expanding their professional networks. Moreover, these courses often attract participants from various parts of the globe. Online programmes also tend to be more cost-effective compared to traditional on-campus options, saving students money on commuting and housing expenses."

As universities gear up to introduce online courses, they are poised to overturn a previous regulation set by the Karnataka government. According to the earlier rule, only the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) based in Mysuru was permitted to offer distance education courses. This mandate compelled universities like Bangalore University to discontinue their popular distance education programmes, negatively impacting their finances. For some time now, these institutions have been lobbying the state government to reconsider this directive, albeit without success. In 2020, the Karnataka State Higher Education Council adopted a resolution limiting the offering of distance learning programmes to KSOU. However, the recent UGC endorsement offers hope for universities to fortify their financial standing.

In accordance with UGC guidelines, universities that have earned commendable rankings from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and those placed within the first 100 ranks in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) have been granted permission to introduce such programmes. Nine universities in the state meet these criteria, rendering them eligible to embark on this online learning journey.

Where is Scooby? Illegal breeding centres spur dog-snatchers

Rajapalayam goes missing, putting spotlight on mushrooming breeding centres in city

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Animal activists have expressed concern over the increasing number of dog abductions in the city. They blame the illegal breeding centres that are mushrooming across the city unregulated for the theft of pet dogs, especially those of Mudhol and Rajapalayam breeds.

The latest dognapping incident took place at Ramaiah Layout of Kacharakanahalli ward in Banaswadi police jurisdiction. Ramnath Lad, the owner of Scooby, a Rajapalyam, said in the complaint to Banaswadi police that Scooby was last seen, as per the CCTV footage, at Great Gills at 9.30 am on August 23.

Sreenivas Lad, the brother of Ramanath Lad, said he wanted the police to act tough against those indulging in stealing dogs. "We visited nearby slums expecting to find Scooby but in vain. We have also pasted pamphlets at various slums appealing to people to contact us if they find Scooby. We also offered Rs 5,000 cash for people who provide information on Scooby," said Sreenivas Lad, the uncle of Karnataka Labour Minister Santosh Lad.

"I am very happy with the cooperation and help of Banaswadi police. I hope the police find Scooby and arrest those responsible for dog missing cases taking place in Kammanahalli, Lingarajapuram and Banaswadi areas

Scooby, a Rajapalayam, was seen being taken by this person above in the CCTV footage

Sreenivas Lad said that all the data, including the CCTV footage, was given to Banaswadi police. "I am very happy with the cooperation and help of Banaswadi police. I hope the police find Scooby and arrest those responsible for dog missing incidents taking place in Kammanahalli, Lingarajapuram and Banaswadi areas," Sreenivas Lad said.

He said that he visited slums at Pillanna Garden looking for Scooby. "Some people, suspected to be owners of illegal dog breeding centres, objected to me pasting pamphlets on the disappearance of Scooby. I also sent people to Ramaswamy Palya, Oil Mill Road, Bagalur Layout, and Janakirama Layout but they could not find Scooby at these places," he said.

The Banaswadi police have registered a NCR (non-cognisable report) on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Animal Welfare Warden Tejeshwar B, said illegal dog breeding centres are mushrooming in the city. "There will be fewer than 50 authorised dog breeding centres as against around 10,000 illegal dog breeding centres in the city. I suspect there are 200 illegal breeding centres in and around Banaswadi. The people who own such centres encourage thieves to steal pet dogs," said Thejeshwar.

Expressing concern over the dognapping incidents in the city, Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said the authorities have to take measures to prevent dubious breeding centres from cropping up. "I appeal to the authorities to act tough against the illegal dog breeding centres which are against norms," he said.

CRIME FILES

Phoney online merchants' gang busted

Police on Monday detained 21 members of an interstate gang who had been targeting customers of online retailers on suspicion of fraud and data theft. Three laptops, a hard drive, and 11 mobile phones were seized from them.

The suspects have been apprehended from Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh by the Cyber Economic and Narcotic police, who believe they committed fraud worth Rs 70 lakh.

Shiva Prakash Devaraju, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North, said the accused were merchants on several e-commerce platforms who targeted cash-on-delivery (COD) purchases. "The accused used to send phoney goods to customers after getting payment," he said.

Alleged moral policing: 1 detained

A 22-year-old man was detained by the police for verbally harassing a woman in an alleged moral policing episode, which was captured on video and posted online.

According to the complaint submitted on August 26, the offender, Zakir, accosted the victim for travelling with a Hindu colleague. The Cyber Economic and Narcotics police made the arrest within 24 hours, according to DCP East Bheemashankar S Guled.

According to the police, the victim said in her complaint that the incident happened three days earlier while she and a coworker were riding back from work. The accused waylaid them and attacked the victim verbally.

Zakir also took a video of it and posted it online. According to the police, he recognised the bike rider as a Hindu based on the sacred threads on his wrist.

"We're looking into whether he published the footage online or if someone else did. We know for sure though that he filmed the incident. If the film was uploaded by someone else, it is unlawful, and the person needs to be punished," said the police. Zakir is currently being held by authorities.

Politician detained on rape charges

Police have detained Telangana Congress politician Kumbham Shivakumar Reddy on suspicion of raping a woman in a Bengaluru hotel. Following a complaint from a lady who claimed that Reddy had sexually assaulted her at a five-star hotel in Bengaluru, the Cubbon Park police opened a rape case.

Reddy, who is also the president of the Narayanpet District Congress, has previously faced similar accusations. The Panjagutta police in Hyderabad had already charged him with rape and fraud. In May of last year, police filed a complaint under sections 417, 420, 376, and 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Bengaluru victim said that Reddy had called her to a five-star hotel where he had sexually abused her. The victim was also filmed by the Telangana Congress politician, who later used her images to blackmail her, she alleged.

Head-on collision between bus and car claims 6 lives

A horrifying head-on collision between a car and a KSRTC bus in Sathanur on the southwest suburbs of Bengaluru on Monday resulted in the immediate death of six passengers, according to police officials.

The collision happened at around 4:30 pm on the national highway (948) connecting Bengaluru and Coimbatore. The KSRTC bus was on its way from Kanakapura to Halagur, which is close to Mandya, while the six passengers of the Toyota Qualis were headed to Bengaluru. Police believe the bus and the automobile must have been moving at extremely high speeds based on the crash's effects. They have yet to identify the accident's cause.

Nagesh, Govinda, and Kumara, three of the fatalities, worked at a hotel inside the Legislators' Home, which houses MLAs and MLCs. Puttaraju, the fourth victim, has been identified, although authorities are currently gathering information on him. Jyothilingappa, the sixth victim, was a section officer in the Vidhana Soudha's Legislative Assembly section. According to a official from the Kanakapura police subdivision, the final victim, Shanth Kumar, was a junior assistant at their office. **BMB**

Rape accused tries great escape, but lands back in police net

The video of a rape accused making an escape after jumping the 40 feet tall prison wall has gone viral on social media in Karnataka. The police have now nabbed the accused and sent him back to the prison.

The 23-year-old Vasantha, an auto driver was jailed in connection with a rape case in Davanagere Sub-jail. Vasantha, a resident of Karuru in the outskirts of Davanagere city was arrested by Davanagere Women's police station on Saturday and sent to jail. Vasantha after landing in jail had jumped the wall from 40 feet and made an escape. The footage showed even as his leg was hurt after the jump, he managed to limp towards the road and caught an auto to escape. The incident was captured on CCTV footage.

Basavanagara Police had lodged a fresh case in this regard and launched a hunt for the accused. The accused was found in Duggavathi village in Harihara taluk. **–IANS**

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In the shadow of neglect

Dore Kere Lake transforms into mosquito breeding area; residents allege that civic body has not been maintaining STP sufficiently

A portion of Dore Kere Lake has collected a large amount of garbage, resulting in a foul smell; the lake also has a walking pathway, most of which do not have lights installed

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Residents around Dore Kere Lake, one of the oldest lakes near Uttarahalli in South Bengaluru, have complained of poor maintenance by the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), leading it to turn into a mosquito breeding ground.

Neha, a resident who lives half a kilometre away from the lake, told Bangalore Mirror that a portion of the lake has collected a large amount of garbage, resulting in a foul smell. "The lake also has a walking pathway, but most of it do not have lights installed for pedestrians to use during the evenings," she said.

> **"The lake also has a walking pathway, but most of it do not have lights installed for pedestrians to use during the evenings**
>
> –Neha, a resident who lives half a kilometre away from the lake

She added that the issue has remained the same for many years now. The lake was rejuvenated close to seven years ago, and a sewage treatment plant (STP) was installed by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). However, the BBMP is responsible for the maintenance of the lake.

Furthermore, residents allege that the STP has not been sufficiently maintained by the municipal body, leading to an inflow of sewage into the lake and causing a stench. They also dread the arrival of monsoon rain, as it would mean more inflow of sewage into the lake, along with other debris that is present in storm water drains (SWDs). Lake experts have pointed out that the BBMP must focus on the health of the lake and improving the quality of the water while creating detailed project reports (DPRs) instead of putting all the effort into creating a social area and pedestrian pathways for residents to make use of.

'Don't raze these buildings in Mysuru'

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the demolition of heritage structures—Devaraja Market and Lansdowne Buildings—in Mysuru.

A Task Force Committee and Special Heritage Committee constituted by the Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru had recommended the demolition of the buildings as they are in a dilapidated condition.

"It is settled law that when it comes to an issue of consideration of experts' view/ opinion, courts of law should be circumspect in showing indulgence, as the courts do not possess the expertise," the division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice MGS Kamal said in their recent judgement.

The PIL filed by citizens of Mysuru, including Prof D Shrijay Devaraj Urs, G Satyanarayana (Gouri Satya), N Niranjan Nikam, and R Raja Chandra, was dismissed.

Devaraja Market and Lansdowne Buildings are in dilapidated state

The court noted: "These committees were constituted for getting expert opinion in the field who undertook the exercise of spot inspection of Devaraja Market and collected necessary material and thereafter opined that it will not be advisable to reconstruct the building and the only course open is to demolish the building."

The HC said that it cannot sit in judgement on the opinions of experts.

"The fact that a portion of the Devaraja Market building collapsed while carrying on restoration activity and the probable danger to the market, we are of the opinion that this Court cannot sit as an appellate body in writ jurisdiction to set aside the opinion of the experts," the HC said.

The two buildings are 130 years old and were developed during the reign of Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar. The PIL claimed that these buildings were built to complement the Mysore Palace and Fort and have also been graded as heritage buildings.

The authorities had contended that, due to the poor condition of the buildings, restoration work on them could not be continued. A portion of the building had also collapsed when restoration was being undertaken. Subsequently, the expert committees recommended that the buildings be demolished. **–PTI**

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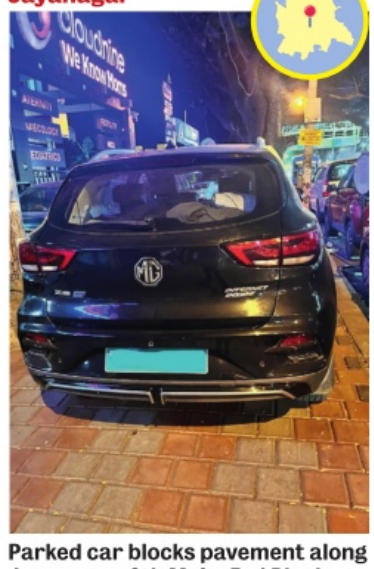
Please shift
HRBR Layout

Pedestrians are forced onto the road due to obstructed footpaths by eateries, disrupting local tranquility at HRBR Layout.

Blocking forever
Jayanagar



Parked car blocks pavement along Jayanagar, 9th Main, 3rd Block, causing inconvenience to pedestrians.

Collected waste
Richmond Road

Garbage accumulation spoils the vicinity of the Karnataka Police Internal Security Division on Richmond Road.

Series of unfortunate civic faux pas at BTM Layout

Rampant dumping of meat waste; urination at public spaces due to lack of toilets; roads that are crumbling and accident-prone — residents of area in depths of frustration

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Public toilets in BTM 4th Stage were removed to make way for storm water drain construction; Road near the RTO office Circle (if you can call the above a road) is littered with debris from construction

A number of civic concerns has surged in BTM 4th Stage, prompting residents of the area to call for immediate attention from authorities concerned. The residents have revealed a list of issues that according to them has been prevailing since years and the authorities have done nothing. Issues like illegal waste dumping, lack of CCTV cameras, absence of public toilets, and inadequate road infrastructure are all said to be contributing to the growing discomfort and public safety risks in the area.

The residents disclosed that of one the most alarming issues is that of the unregulated dumping of waste and debris near the BTM 4th Stage RTO Office Circle, resulting in severe hygiene crisis. "We have seen and reported about a mini lorry consistently dumping garbage, construction debris, and leftover food along Devarachikkanahalli Road, causing grave health concerns among residents. Meat waste is being dumped on a regular basis and it creates a stench. There are many local meat shops close by from where the people get the left overs and dump it here. Despite asking them not to several times, they continue to do this. And even after highlighting the issue to the BBMP, we have not received any help." said

Suresh Prakash, an active resident and member of RWA, expressed frustration over the lack of action from authorities. "Despite numerous complaints, a hazardous pit remains unattended on the junction of Ranka Colony Road and Dr. Ambedkar Road, posing a potential danger to commuters. The absence of speed-reducing measures near schools has resulted in accidents involving residents, and the authorities' inaction is deeply concerning," said Umesh, a resident of BTM.

The residents alleged that the dumping of garbage in the locality has been going on since 2014.

Adding to this, is that the toilets installed near the RTO office were removed to make way for work on a storm water drain construction. After its removal, people have started to urinate in the nearby areas. "There are no toilets around BTM 4th stage RTO office. Public visiting the office use our compound wall to relieve themselves. We have requested many times with the RTO office staff and local authorities for public toilets, but to no avail," said Umesh.

Road to disaster

Furthermore, the residents alleged about the bad state of road near the BTM Layout 4th Stage RTO Office Circle. "Despite several complaints made since 2011, a 10 feet deep pit is in the middle of the road at the junction of Ranka Colony Road and Dr. Ambedkar road remains unattended to by BBMP. This is a busy road that links the BTM Lake Road to Bannerghatta Road. Absence of speed reducing humps in appropriate places, near school and playschools for toddlers is leading to regular hit and run cases leaving the residents injured. Although these issues were raised in ward meetings, the end result in zero action by the BBMP," said Suresh Prakash, a resident and member of RWA from Ranka Colony.

> **The absence of ward committee meetings and accountability from civic agencies exacerbates the situation** –P Mahesh, BNP

They also highlighted that 10% of SWD work is yet to be completed and the work has stopped due to lack of funds. The residents also complained of inadequate street lighting. Kumar said, "Our area is grappling with a myriad of civic problems, and despite our complaints, there's been no tangible action from officials. Illegal dumpers even resort to threats, making reporting a risky endeavor. The onus lies on the authorities to address these issues promptly."

Poongothai Mahesh, Core Working group member of BNP, blamed the absence of a corporator due to delayed BBMP elections for the persisting problems. "The absence of ward committee meetings and accountability from civic agencies exacerbates the situation. Coordinated efforts from relevant departments are essential to break this cycle of irresponsibility."

Commuters want Metro link to Satellite bus stop

Bus station sees high footfall of travellers, who find it tough to navigate the walk to metro station with luggage and traffic

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Commuters who frequent the Mysuru Road bus station, popularly known as the Satellite bus stop, have requested the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to cooperate with the Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) and create a direct connection between the bus stop and the Deepanjali Nagar metro station in the vicinity. The request has come in the light of the Kempegowda International Airport inaugurating a new 420 metre elevated pathway connecting Terminal one to P4 parking for the convenience of passengers.

The Satellite bus station has a separate area for outstation buses and a different bay for Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses that serve within the city. All Karnataka Road State Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses towards Mysuru, Madikeri, Virajpet, Kollegal, Chamarajanagara, Ramanagara, Kozhikode, Kalpetta and Kasargod among other destinations begin their journey from here, making it one of the busiest stations receiving high footfall. Commuters say that if a connection between the metro station and the bus stop is made, it would be convenient and provide the metro as an option for last mile connectivity.

Jyothsna, a student at a university on Langford Road residing in a PG within the neighbourhood, said that she often uses the Satellite bus stop for travelling back and forth from her hometown in Kerala. "If there were a direct connection to the metro station, it would make my trip back to my PG in Shanthinagar easy. I could take the metro to Cubbon Park and then an auto for the rest of the distance. Since I often have a hefty load of luggage, it is hard to rely on the BMTC buses for travel and autos are too expensive for a student to afford," she explained.

Another frequent commuter, Kalyani (name changed), noted that the walk from the bus stop to the metro station is about 12 minutes. "The walk can be made by most but the pedestrian pathways on the roads in the route are not maintained adequately. Along with this, the Mysuru Road receives a huge amount of traffic and is more often than not, very congested. It is tough for passengers, especially the elderly and those with luggage, to navigate through the stretch," she said, adding that mutli-modal integration should have been kept in mind while the metro was initially constructed.

> **Mysuru Road sees huge traffic and is more often than not, very congested so it is a tough stretch to walk** – A frequent commuter

Other frequent commuters have noted that the distance between the bus stop and the metro station is close to a kilometre (950 metres), which would make it harder for the various departments involved to execute a connection by building a pedestrian pathway. They have suggested construction of a monorail, a single-rail system often found in airport transfers and medium capacity metros, to connect the two stations.

"The BBMP has installed many foot over bridges (FOBs) in the area. There is one right outside the Satellite bus station, despite a traffic signal being present at the same spot. If the authorities can execute them, they can also build a pedestrian connection between the two stations seamlessly," said Prajwal, a student who commutes using the bus stop frequently. However, he added that the construction will require diversion of traffic to a different route, further adding to the traffic menace in the area.

Satellite bus stop has big footfall as it is hub for out-of-state travel

Navigating risk: Tackling road safety blackspots head-on

Karnataka accounts for 530 blackspots for road safety in country; centre forms strategy to curb accidents

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India's battle with road safety issues has taken a dark turn with an alarming number of blackspots across the nation contributing to a surge in accidents. Among the total of 5,352 blackspots in India, Karnataka accounts for 530 of these locations, making up approximately 9.90 per cent of the nation's blackspots. These blackspots represent areas with poor connectivity or network coverage within the state. The maximum blackspots in the country has been found in Tamil Nadu (695), followed by West Bengal (678) and Karnataka stands third. The least number of blackspots are found in Meghalaya and Mizoram where both the states have just one black spot each.

Blackspots are said to be one of the main reasons for the increase in accidents. During the recent reply in the parliament, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said, "As per the data received from the police department of all the States/UTs for the year 2021, India recorded a total of 1,53,972 road accident fatalities and 1,72,278 severely injured individuals. These tragic incidents have a significant socio-economic impact, constituting approximately 3.14% of the nation's GDP, as reported by the study 'Socio-Economic Cost of Road Accidents in India' conducted by DIMTS in association with TRIPP-IIT Delhi.

Kempegowda International Airport Road is one of the blackspots in Bengaluru

> **According to 2021 data, India recorded a total of 1,53,972 road accident fatalities and 1,72,278 severely injured individuals**
>
> Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari

Hence, we have formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address road safety. The strategy encompasses four key aspects: Education, Engineering (both road and vehicle), Enforcement, and Emergency Care. A range of initiatives has been undertaken to tackle road safety challenges in the country."

Gadkari also added that the Ministry educates by conducting extensive awareness campaigns through social media, electronic media, and print media to create effective public awareness about road safety. Additionally, a National Road Safety Month/Week is observed annually to further spread awareness and strengthen road safety efforts. Certification courses for Road Safety Auditors and driving training programs have also been implemented to enhance road safety expertise and impart driving skills across the nation. "Regarding engineering, road safety has been integrated into road design at the planning stage, and Road Safety Audits (RSAs) are mandated for all National Highways (NHs) at various stages of development and maintenance. The identification and rectification of black spots/accident spots on NHs receive high priority, and the Ministry administers the electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) Project to centralise road accident data. Various codes and guidelines have been issued by the Ministry and IRC to implement road safety measures effectively. The Ministry has also made strides in Vehicle Engineering. Safety measures such as airbags for passengers, safety harnesses, crash helmets, and speed restrictions for children riding on motorcycles have been prescribed. Mandatory fitment of safety technologies like Seat Belt Reminders, Over Speed Warning Systems, Reverse Parking Alert Systems, and Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS) for certain vehicle categories has been enforced", he added.

59 blackspots in Bengaluru

A comprehensive survey conducted by the traffic police has unveiled a concerning count of 59 blackspots within the city. These accident-prone locations were scrutinized based on data from the last three years, focusing on areas with the highest accident frequencies. Among the prominently identified blackspots are the Sirsi Circle flyover, Raj Kumar Samadhi Road, Hennur underpass, ITPB Road, Tank Bund Road, Kannamangala Palya Road, Sadahalli Junction, Hunasamaranahalli Road, Kempegowda International Airport Road, Palanahalli Junction, Banaswadi Road, Nayandahalli Junction, Tin Factory Road, Ropena Agrahara, Jakkur Flyover, Garvebavi Palya Road, and Electronics City Phase One. A senior police official revealed, "The compiled list has been communicated to relevant authorities such as BBMP, PWD, and NHAI, urging them to address and rectify these blackspots promptly."

HC evicts advocate after 14 years

An advocate who leased the ground floor of a residential building in 2009 from a friend for a period of three years but continued to squat in it for 14 years has been ordered by the HC of Karnataka to vacate it within 60 days.

Justice H P Sandesh highlighted that the possession had been transferred and a premium amount of Rs 10 lakh had been paid as part of the agreement for a three-year lease. Despite receiving possession in 2009, the advocate, identified as L Doreswamy, had not vacated the property for an extended period.

"It is clear that the possession had been transferred and a premium amount of Rs 10 lakh had been paid as part of the agreement for a three-year lease. Despite receiving possession in 2009, the advocate, for about 14 years is squatting on the property without vacating the premises," Justice H P Sandesh noted.

The Court issued a direct order to advocate L Doreswamy, instructing him "to quit and vacate the premises within 60 days from the date of this order." The Court further directed the relevant authorities, stating, "If [he] fails to do so, take possession in accordance with the law." Additionally, the property owner was mandated to refund the premium amount of Rs 10 lakh that had been paid by Doreswamy at the time of occupation.

The property owner had initially leased the ground floor of the property in Malleshwaram to his friend and advocate, in 2009, against a security deposit of Rs 10 lakh and a monthly rent of Rs 3,400. After three years, Doreswamy faced financial difficulties and requested the owner to deduct the rent from the deposit.

Subsequently, Krishnaprasad A, aged 68, filed an eviction order in 2016 in a trial court to remove him from the premises. However, advocate turned to the Rent Controller, who determined the new rent as Rs 21,000 per month. Krishnaprasad claimed that even this was not paid. His challenge against the Rent Controller's order was dismissed by a Small Causes court. He then approached the HC. Setting aside the lower court order, HC passed the eviction order against Doreswamy. **–PTI**

Wired down the drain at HBR Layout

Residents discover cables running under manhole

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While dangling wires from the poles was already an unresolved issue in the city, Bengaluru faces yet another. Residents of the 3rd block, HBR Layout discover optical fibre communication (OFC) inside sewerage pipes. The issue was earlier related to overhead hanging cables, but now BESCOM might also have to solve the issue underneath.

Residents of the 3rd block, HBR Layout, discovered OFC cables running under the manhole after facing sewage blockage issues. Prasanna, a resident, told BM, "Few residents have been complaining about sewerage issues. Residents living in low-lying areas face issues with back-flow when it clogs. They further had to connect to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials and had to shell out of their pocket to rectify the issue. The situation continued for nearly 6 months. After investigation, BWSSB officials discovered that an OFC company had conveniently utilised the sewerage line as a routing system with the junction box positioned outside the pipes. Despite reaching out to the authorities no action has been taken as of yet."

An OFC company had utilised sewerage line as routing system

BESCOM has been in the process of cutting off all unauthorised cables hanging from poles. This action was taken after two accidents on August 25 occurred due to dangling cables on electrical poles. BESCOM has been in a removal process encompassing OFC cables, data cables, and dish cables. The operation is projected to conclude within a week.

However, a similar incident occurred last year following the tragic death of a pedestrian in Sanjaynagar. "We have already raised a written concern regarding this issue to the Chairman of BWSSB, a copy of the letter has been submitted to the BBMP Chief Commissioner as well" he added. Residents are clueless and demand an answer as to how the cable ended up in the sewerage line.

However, BWSSB officials, however, question Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in the matter. "If the residents share the location, we will cut the connections. BBMP should not provide authorisation for such acts and must monitor these scenarios. We don't give permission to anyone to lay cables inside sewage pipes. The permission to OFC companies is given by BBMP alone. Whenever we see such instances, we sever the cable connection" said a senior BWSSB official.

HEALTH TIP: Forest-sourced honey is a natural substitute for refined sugar, rich in antioxidants, and has shown to help manage weight

Millets support weight management by keeping you satiated for longer periods, reducing the temptation for unhealthy snacking

BangaloreMirror | 7
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POWER OF 40 WINKS

Short naps can improve memory, increase productivity, reduce stress and promote a healthier heart

Napping during the day is an ancient custom that is practiced worldwide.

While some people view napping as a luxurious indulgence, others see it as a way to maintain alertness and well-being. But napping can come with drawbacks as well as benefits.

As an orofacial pain specialist, I have extensive education in sleep medicine and how sleep impacts wellness, due mostly to the relationship between sleep and painful conditions such as headaches and facial pain. My training involved all aspects of sleep, especially sleep breathing disorders, insomnia and sleep-related movement disorders.

As such, I'm aware of the complex nature of napping, and why a short nap – that is, a nap during the daytime that lasts from 20 to 30 minutes – may be beneficial in myriad ways.

An abundance of health benefits

Research shows that there are many benefits to napping. Short naps can boost mental functioning and memory, as well as improve alertness, attention and reaction time.

Short naps are also linked to increased productivity and creativity. Because napping seems to improve creative thinking, some companies have attempted to harness this by introducing napping rooms into the workplace.

What's more, it appears the brain uses nap time to process information gathered throughout the day, which appears to enhance problem-solving abilities. One small study revealed that people who took short naps were less frustrated and impulsive, which resulted in better focus and efficiency when performing work-related tasks. Napping may even lead to an improved ability to learn new motor skills, such as a golf swing or the playing of a musical instrument. This is because these memories or skills become consolidated in the brain during sleep, whether at night or while napping.

Napping can also reduce stress. One study found that naps of approximately 20 minutes improved the overall mood of participants. However, longer naps lasting more than 30 minutes are not typically associated with improved mood and increased feelings of well-being.

Short naps may also be associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular diseases. If we are awake more than we should be, we tend to have a buildup of the "fight or flight" chemicals in our bodies. Studies show that more consistent sleep will help lower these chemicals, resulting in a normalization of blood pressure and heart rates. Napping appears to help this process for some people.

But just as in nighttime sleep, some people may have trouble drifting off for a nap, especially when they have limited time. Progressive muscle relaxation techniques have been shown to be beneficial for both nighttime sleep and napping. Other nonspecific relaxation techniques, like listening to relaxing music, appear to also be beneficial for falling asleep. Interestingly, many people overestimate their time awake when trying to sleep and underestimate the time they actually spent sleeping.

Napping can have drawbacks

One condition associated with napping longer than 30 minutes is sleep inertia – the grogginess and disorientation that people sometime experience after waking from a longer nap.

Usually, the longer the nap, the more sleep inertia there is to overcome. This can impair cognitive function from several minutes up to half an hour. In many cases, these effects can be minimized by consuming caffeine directly after the nap.

But it is important to note that caffeine is not a substitute for sleep. Caffeine acts to temporarily block the action of a chemical known as adenosine, a sleep-promoting agent that builds up during waking hours. If you are habitually dependent on caffeine consumption to keep you awake and alert, it may suggest that there is an underlying sleep disorder such as insomnia or sleep apnea, in which a person temporarily stops breathing during sleep.

Long or late afternoon naps can also interfere with nighttime sleep, either by leading to difficulties falling asleep or staying asleep during the night. This disruption of the regular sleep-wake cycle can result in overall sleep deprivation, which can have numerous negative health effects.

What's more, for those age 60 and up, longer naps – beyond 30 minutes – may increase the risk for cardiovascular problems. Researchers found that older adults taking naps for more than one hour per day have a higher incidence of increased blood pressure, high blood sugar, excess body fat around the waist, and abnormal cholesterol or triglyceride levels, sometimes known as metabolic syndrome.

The reason for this phenomenon is mostly unknown. Older individuals tend to nap more frequently than younger adults partly due to more disturbed sleep during the night. This could be related to more pain or other health factors that will interfere with sleep, sleep altering medications and altered sleep rhythms seen with aging.

Best practices

So, to maximize benefits while reducing risks, here are some tips: Keep naps short to avoid sleep inertia and nighttime sleep disruptions. Nap in the early afternoon, as that aligns with a decrease in energy levels after lunch and with the body's natural circadian dip, which is an increase in sleepiness similar to what occurs at dusk. Avoid late afternoon naps, finish naps at least four to six hours before bedtime, and create the right environment by napping in a quiet, comfortable and dimly lit space.

If you're struggling with daytime sleepiness, it's best to address the root cause rather than relying solely on napping. Reducing caffeine consumption, maintaining a regular sleep schedule and getting adequate nighttime sleep are essential steps to reduce daytime sleepiness.

Ultimately, napping should complement a healthy sleep routine, not serve as a substitute for sufficient nighttime rest. A balanced approach to napping can contribute to a more energised, focused and resilient life.

(Steven Bender, Texas A&M University, for The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Common gym mistakes

You're Going Too Hard Too Fast
Some people believe that going hard is the best way to go, but your body is not capable if you haven't worked out in a while, which can lead to exhaustion or a serious injury.

Not Warming Up Or Stretching
As basic as warming up seems most people overlook it. People are usually rushing with their warm up but it is the most essential part of your workout if you don't want to end up with an injury.

You Rush Through The Reps Quickly And Pay No Attention To Tempo
Many people pile on weights simply because they can—but they're flying through the exercise, relying on momentum and sacrificing form. Slowing down and controlling the exercise is far more beneficial for muscle growth.

Poor Recovery
You've been hitting the gym hard but not been seeing proper results? There could be several reasons for this, but one that many people overlook is rest.

Not Consistent With Your Training Plan
Whether you do this out of boredom or you feel others are doing more effective exercises. Stop. Inconsistency is what is preventing you from achieving great results.

Taking Long Breaks
While taking short breaks in between circuits is beneficial, taking long ones is not. By taking an excessively long break, you allow your heart rate to drop and miss out on the calorie-burning benefits of keeping it elevated.

Poor diet
It is a common misconception that working out can compensate for a poor diet. Simply exercising will not help with muscle growth; a well-balanced diet is equally important.

Watch out, this relationship is going south

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

money from the victims' bank accounts. In addition, they would make the victim call his friends and ask them to transfer money. The accused would keep the victim with them overnight. According to the police, about 15 people have been extorted using the same fake account.

The police were able to catch the accused after a victim who lost Rs 60,000 approached the police. The extortion victim complained about the incident and a case was registered and two accused were arrested.

This comes just a week since a 30-year-old Bengaluru engineer lost Rs 2.6 lakh after being threatened by two con artists who stole money from him. The man paid a hefty sum after getting caught in the con on a popular dating app. Two criminals, one of whom was a woman, used the man's pornographic images and films to extort money from him. The user downloaded the app to meet new people, interacted with the accused woman there, and eventually started having video call conversations with her. According to the police, the victim got naked in the video calls and the conversation was recorded by the accused which was later used for blackmail and extortion.

According to the police, 50,000 cybercrime incidents have been recorded in Bengaluru since 2017. QR scam, UPI scam and OTP scam have always taken a lead in scams, however in recent months there has been a surge in fraud and scam on matrimonial sites and dating apps.

Govt set to launch 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme, Kharge & Rahul Gandhi to attend

The Karnataka government will launch on Wednesday a scheme offering Rs 2,000 monthly financial assistance to more than one crore women who are heads of their households, in the presence of AICC president M Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the district headquarters town of Mysuru, officials said on Monday.

According to officials, about 1.08 crore potential beneficiaries have enrolled for the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme, one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress, which ousted the BJP from power in the May Assembly elections.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters in Mysuru today that about one lakh people would gather at the function, where the scheme would be launched by Kharge, while he would preside over the event and Gandhi would be present.

He said it's government function and added that Kharge and Gandhi would attend the event in their capacity as Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and as member of the Parliament, respectively. "It's not a party function".

The chief minister said the government has already implemented three of the five 'guarantees' (prepoll promises) -- 'Shakti', 'Gruha Jyothi' and 'Annabhagya' -- and noted that 'Gruha Lakshmi' is the fourth one.

Siddaramaiah said last week that the government would directly transfer Rs 2,000 a month to the bank accounts of the enrolled 1.08 crore women.

The government has earmarked Rs 17,500 crore for the 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year, he had said. **PTI**

Cabinet sub-committee will discuss drought situation

With drought situation looming large in parts of Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday a cabinet sub-committee will meet shortly and based on its observation, the state government will take a decision.

He also indicated that there was no proposal for cloud-seeding, saying that there are no instances in the world of such an initiative having succeeded.

The Chief Minister said the Centre will be informed once the drought is declared by the State, to get the central support as per the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms.

"The cabinet sub-committee will have a meeting in a day or two. After that we will make a decision. Once drought is declared in the state, we will appeal to the Centre. A central team will come. Centre will have to support us as per the NDRF norms," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

After drought is declared, the government would carry out relief programmes in the affected Taluks, such as providing employment to those hit, he said.

A few days ago, former CM and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai had raised the issue of drought situation prevailing in various parts of the state.

The rains in July last week have turned out to be inadequate for the State, Agriculture and Revenue department officials have said. **PTI**

Citizens put on their thinking caps for their lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the saplings planted as there was no rain. The meeting was unique as it was an unstructured, issue-based Gram Panchayat-type meeting, to encourage free flow of thought. Such meetings are cost-effective as we are not spending in costly halls," said Bhavna, a resident of Zedwoods apartment in the Yelahanka area.

On Monday morning, some of the volunteers gathered at Krishna Sagar Lake vicinity as scheduled for an open discussion about topics connected with Lakes' Garden upkeep and how to go about it.

Environmentally conscious citizens of Bengaluru are increasingly indulging in similar activities to find easy and simple solutions to complex issues like the health of water bodies and to draw in more volunteers to help keep waterbodies in their surroundings clean and healthy.

Rites and rituals

While citizens from Yelahanka in North Bengaluru are conducting chaupals, a group of residents around Akshayanagar Lake in South Bengaluru raised awareness about the importance of healthy water bodies through a ritual along the lines of Ganga aarti. The ritual is performed when the water body is filled up to the brim during monsoon. Locals say the idea is to bring the community together and highlight the importance of keeping their environment healthy.

The lake was revived through a continuous effort put in by locals over the last ten years.

"We have transformed the once ailing waterbody into a biodiversity-rich and healthy lake. We started that culture of offering our prayers. The entire lake is decorated with flowers and diyas and priests cover the lake boundary while chanting mantras. The event is like a festival. Every local participates in the event and children perform skits highlighting environmental issues. We use this opportunity to inform the locals about the environmental significance of the lake and how it has helped in the betterment of surrounding biodiversity and groundwater level," said Venkatesh Sanganal, a resident and team member, Jalanidhi. He further added that this year's Ganga aarti will happen once it rains and the lake is filled with water.

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I, Mr.Soni Akashkumar Niranjankumar S/o Soni Niranjanbhai Chintulal residing at No 248,3rd Main Brindavan Extension, Arekere, Mico Layout, Bannerghatta Road, B'lore-560076. I want to change my name as Soni Akash Niranjanbhai. Vide affidavit dated 26.8.2023 sworn before notary B H Rajendra Bangalore

I Akash G Jain S/O, B Goutham Chand R/o #311,66th Cross,5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010 have changed my name to Akash Jain.

I, SYED ISHAQ YASMEEN TAJ BASHEER R/at No.93, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross Bande Area, Near Bilal Masjid, Rahamath Nagar, Bengaluru- 560032 have changed my name to YASMEEN TAJ vide affidavit dated: 28/8/2023 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, M.MALA w/o Arun Kumar. G.N R/o R.T Nagar, Bangalore has changed my name from M.MALA to M.MALA ARUN vide affidavit dt:19/06/2023 before Notary M.K. Devaki[Reg. No.7341], Bangalore for all future purposes.

I Saroj Aarti Lalsa W/O, Rahul Rajaram R/o Flat No 201 2nd Floor Indus Paradise Apartment 4th Cross 12th Main Lakkasandra Extension Bengaluru - 560030 have changed my name to Aarti Saroj.

I Sharavanakumara S S/O, Subramani R/o #283 Near Chowdeshwari Temple Chennakeshava Nagara Parappana Agrahara Bangalore Karnataka - 560100 have changed my name to Saravana Kumar.

I, Prakasha K s/o Krishnappa R/o No 3 1st Cross Muneshwara Block Cholanayakanahalli Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name to Prakash K for all purposes.

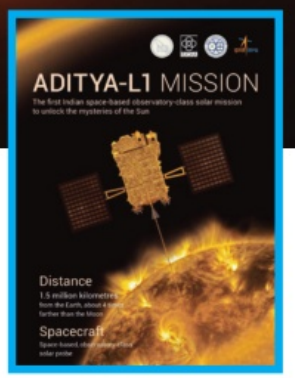
I Shridevi Goudappagol W/O Basavaraj Huddar, R/o #311, Girisagar, Bagalkot, Karnataka, 587116 have changed my name to Shridevi Huddar.

LOST & FOUND

I, Basappa S/o. Late. Yallappa No. 8/481, Yarandapalli Village, Hosuru Taluk, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu. I have lost my Original Sale deed Document No. 429/ 1986 Dated: 22.05.1986 Sy. No. 12/1B. I have lodged the complaint at nearest police station Reference No. 557/2023, Petition No.: 784/2144/2023. If anybody found , kindly contact Mob: 6360474736 & 9025607525 or Nearest police station.

After Moon landing, India eyes the Sun

Launch of Aditya-L1 to study the Sun scheduled for Sept 2, says ISRO



Aditya-L1 Mission aims to observe solar activities and its effect on space

#NEW DELHI

Days after becoming the first nation to land a craft near the Moon's largely unexplored south pole, India's space agency said on Monday it will launch a satellite to survey the Sun.

"The launch of Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun, is scheduled for September 2," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on X, formerly known as Twitter. Aditya, meaning "sun" in Hindi, will be fired into a halo orbit in a region of space about 1.5 million kilometres (930,000 miles) from Earth, providing the craft with a continuous clear view of the Sun.

"This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time," ISRO said. The spacecraft will be carrying seven payloads to observe the Sun's outermost layers -- known as the photosphere and chromosphere -- including by using electromagnetic and particle field detectors.

Among several objectives, it will study the drivers for space weather, including to better understand the dynamics of solar wind.

While NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) have previously placed orbiters to study the Sun, it will be the first such mission for India.

The unmanned Chandrayaan-3 -- "Mooncraft" in Sanskrit -- touched down on the lunar surface last week, making India only the fourth country behind the United States, Russia and China to land successfully on the Moon.

That marked the latest milestone in India's ambitious but cut-price space programme, sparking celebrations across the world's most populous country.

India has a comparatively low-budget space programme but one that has grown considerably in size and momentum since it first sent a probe to orbit the Moon in 2008.

Experts say India can keep costs low by copying and adapting existing technology, and thanks to an abundance of highly skilled engineers who earn a fraction of the wages of their foreign counterparts.

In 2014, India became the first Asian nation to put a craft into orbit around Mars and it is slated to launch a three-day crewed mission into the Earth's orbit by next year.

It also plans a joint mission with Japan to send another probe to the Moon by 2025 and an orbital mission to Venus within the next two years. **-AFP**

Lecturer suspension: Apex Court asks AG to talk to J-K LG

#NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Attorney General of India R Venkataramani to talk to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over the suspension of senior lecturer Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, who was allegedly suspended by J-K authorities for arguing before the apex court against abrogation of Article 370.

At the outset of the hearing of pleas against scrapping Article 370, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Rajeev Dhavan told a five-judge Constitution bench that Bhat was suspended from his job by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after he argued before the apex court.

"He took leave for two days. Argued before this court and went back and was suspended," Sibal said.

Bhat had argued before the apex court on August 24 as petitioner in person in the case.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, asked Venkataramani to talk to the J-K Lieutenant Governor and look into the issue.

The apex court asked AG to look into the issue saying,

Supreme Court was hearing pleas on Article 370

"This should not happen. Someone arguing before this court gets suspended."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said after the news of Bhat's suspension was published in a newspaper, he checked with the J-K administration and he was informed that there were various reasons behind Bhat's suspension including that he had been regularly filing petitions before different courts.

Reacting to this, Sibal replied, "Then, he would have been suspended earlier, why now. I have the suspension order of Bhat and it says that he has argued before this court and therefore the suspension. This is not fair."

The court said if there are other reasons then it is another matter but if a person gets suspended in close proximity of arguing before this court, then it needs to be looked into. **-ANI**

Throwers have no finish line: Neeraj Chopra

#BUDAPEST

Neeraj Chopra has won every title his sport offers but the Olympic champion is not someone who would sit on laurels, rather he would push himself to excel further since "throwers have no finish line".

Chopra on Sunday became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World Championships with a big throw of 88.17m. A World Championships gold was the only missing trophy in his decorated cabinet.

Besides the Tokyo Olympics gold, he has won the yellow metal in the Asian Games (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018). He has also won four individual Diamond League Meeting titles (two each in 2022 and 2023) apart from Diamond League champion's trophy last year. He also became junior world champion in 2016 and won the Asian Championships title in 2017.

So, what remains to achieve now?

"There is a saying that throwers have no finish line. The best thing is that we have our javelin. We can always push ourselves. I may have won a lot of medals but the motivation is to throw farther and farther," Chopra said during a virtual interaction.

Neeraj Chopra with the gold medal at the World Championships

"By winning these medals, I should not think that I have achieved everything. I will work harder, push myself harder to win more medals and bring more laurels for my country. If other Indians join me on the podium next time, that will be great," he said.

The talk of throwing 90m has been going on for the last three-four years but Chopra insisted that it's not a mental hurdle for him **-PTI**

Succession plan: Ambani appoints children to board

#MUMBAI

Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani began executing a succession plan for his energy-to-technology conglomerate Reliance Industries, appointing his three children Isha, Akash, and Anant to the board of the company on Monday.

Till now, the three children were involved only at operating business-level and none were on the board of India's largest listed company.

The board of Reliance met ahead of the company's annual general meeting to approve the appointment of twins Isha and Akash as well as Anant, as the "non-executive directors of the company," the firm said in a stock exchange filing. Last year, the 66-year-old tycoon had made way for his first-born Akash Ambani to become the chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.

Reliance is seeking a shareholder nod for giving Mukesh another five-year term till April 2029. His wife Nita was a director on the company board but she has resigned to make way for the children. **-PTI**

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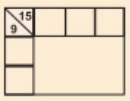

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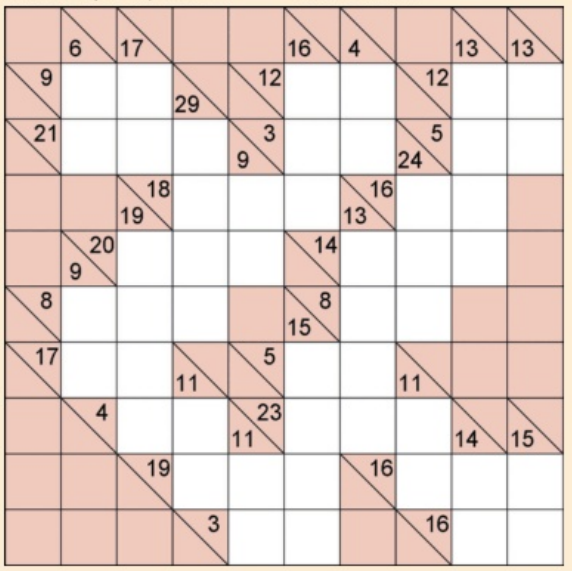

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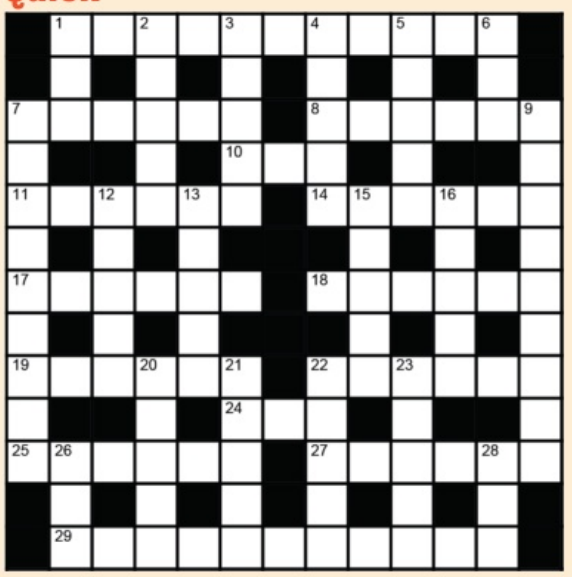


ACROSS

1 Stood for, exemplified (11)
7 City on the Ganges (6)
8 Declared or confessed, asserted (6)
10 Hit hard or thrash (3)
11 Domains or provinces (6)
14 Many fish (6)
17 Austria's capital (6)
18 Port in SW Russia (6)
19 Eleventh letter of Greek alphabet (6)
22 Tumult or disturbance (6)
24 Moved fast (3)
25 Medicinal salt of a halogen (6)
27 Moistened or tinged deeply (6)
29 Forecasting the ultimate destiny of the world (11)

DOWN

1 Narrow inlet, creek (3)
2 Pertaining to the Pope (5)
3 British noblemen (5)
4 School tests (5)
5 Incisor or canine (5)
6 The fourth letter by the sound of it? (3)
7 Restaurant at the Taj Gateway hotel known for its seafood (9)
9 Handed over (9)
12 Revoke as a legacy (5)
13 Dug for coal or other minerals (5)
15 Childhood illness (5)
16 Bone prefix (5)
20 Well done! (5)
21 Sport venue (5)
22 Wholeness (5)
23 Mechanical man (5)
26 Egg cells (3)
28 In short, it means amongst other things (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G

YIQDAINWWMRB DNHNEWY ZNERMRB JMIOQVI GQZZMI-IMRB ION NDDQD QP KNPM-RMRB MI.

Linemaro

I must be in a museum because you are truly a work of art

Mindchow

We learn by reflection (best) imitation (easiest) and experience (bitterest)

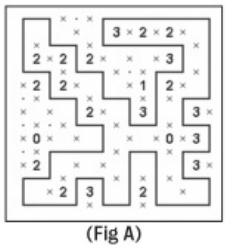
Joke of the day

I can still enjoy sex at 74 • I live at 75, so it's no distance

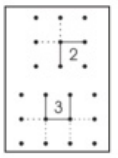
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

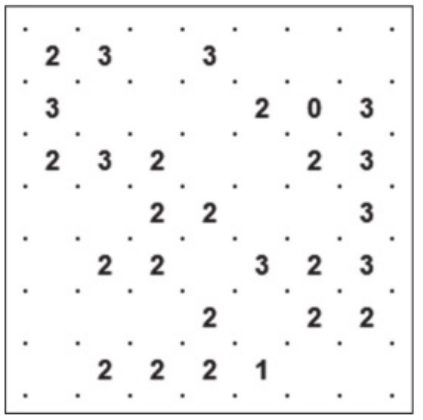


(Fig B) Not Allowed

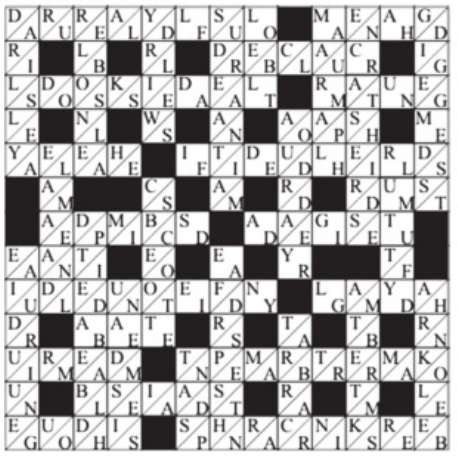
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



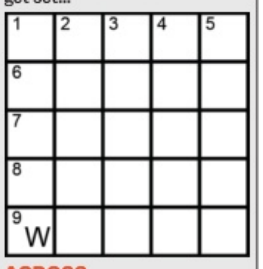
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

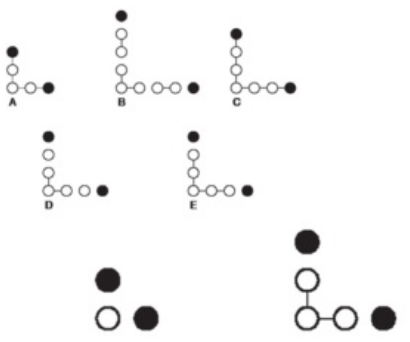
1 Riots; 6 In Zee (1-4); 7 Acres; 8 An net; 9 Sawed

DOWN

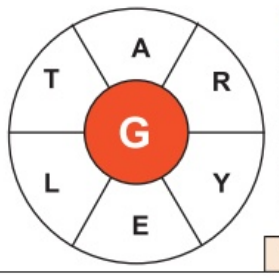
1 Wears; 2 A Zone; 3 Tried; 4 A nine; 5 Tec SS

Mensapuzzle

What comes next?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; **14** Good; **16** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6						8	
	9	1		3		4	7	
7	4		5		8		2	6
			8		1			
		2				8		
			9		7			
3	2		7		9		6	1
	8	9		5		2	4	
	5						3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11

3 5 6 9

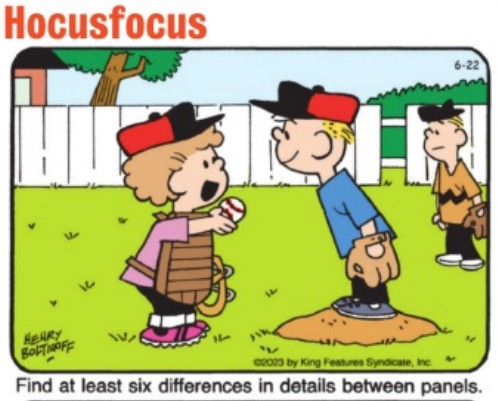
Medium = 16

3 3 7 9

Hard = 36

4 5 6 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Neckline is different. 3. Hat is smaller. 4. Pitcher's mound is larger. 5. Stripe is added to sleeve. 6. Arm is not showing.

Riddler

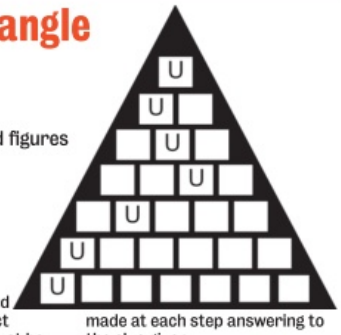
Below are 5 sets of compound words that are missing the part that's common to both. Fill in the missing part of the compound words.

Example: student work. If you add the word body to student and work to body, you get student body and body work.

(1) News Clip
(2) Eye Beat
(3) Lady Print
(4) Pig End
(5) Bed Piece

Alpha triangle

1 Last vowel
2 ___and them
3 Take to court
4 Swing around
5 Cresecentshaped figures
6 Except if
7 Opens

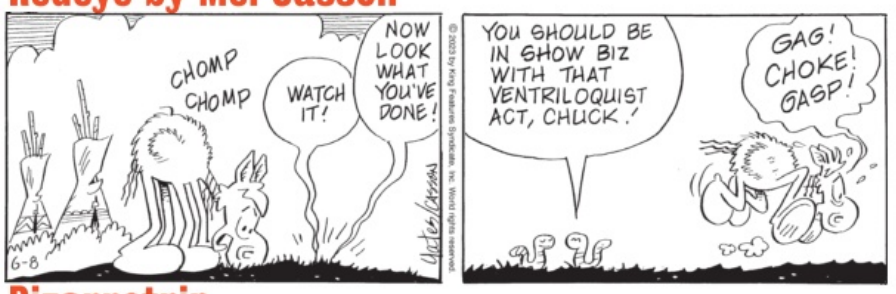


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



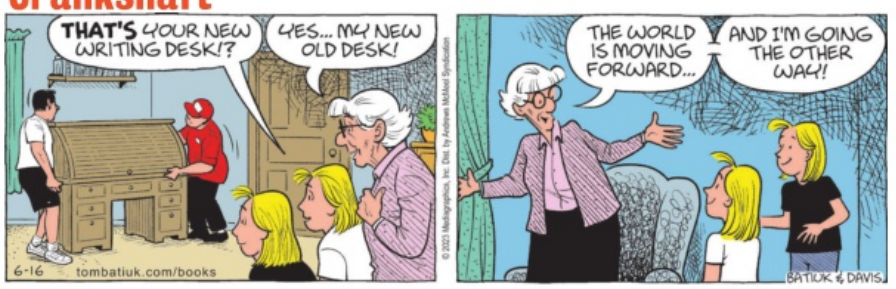
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DO YOU THINK SKIPPING A GRADE IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO? SINCE I GET A LOT OF A'S?
SCHOOL ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT GRADES. WE WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY TOO. SO NO PRESSURE!
BUT IF YOU DO WANT TO SKIP, YOU'LL NEED TO TELL ME BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK SO WE CAN GET YOU ENROLLED.
OH, GOOD. PRESSURE.

Crankshaft


THAT'S YOUR NEW WRITING DESK!?
YES... MY NEW OLD DESK!
THE WORLD IS MOVING FORWARD...
AND I'M GOING THE OTHER WAY!
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are likely to control your internal weakness after analysing yourself, it may give you confidence. You may fight against flesh and addictions of any stuff. Singles are likely to find their good match. Love birds are now having clarity in their relationship. You may expect some opportunities for overseas travel. Students will hear good news in terms of academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today disputes with the siblings may be settled down; it may boost your relationship with the siblings. Your vitality seems to be good, it may help you to complete difficult projects easily. You may expand your network after a short work related trip. You may also help some needy person, it may increase your social status.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be busy with family and social events; you may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money on buying artifacts and other stuff, which will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today some dissatisfaction may come into your mind; you may be under the self exploration state, it affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. You may waste your precious time on worthless tasks. After late evening, things may be somehow better.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be escaped from reality; you may not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Elderly health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house; it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may help needy people, it may increase your social respect. You may also put your hundred per cent effort into your work, resulting in it may complete before time. You may hear some good news from your sibling. Too much work may make you tired; you are advised to avoid stress today, otherwise stress can affect both your professional and personal life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may get tired due to overworking, it may make you lazy and careless. You are advised to keep patience. If you are planning an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have back ache, nervous system, lever related issues and skin issues.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel better; situations may be under control. Your net- work may help you in the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity, you may bring some artifacts or creative stuff for the family. You may also plan to watch movies or go for outings with friends or family.

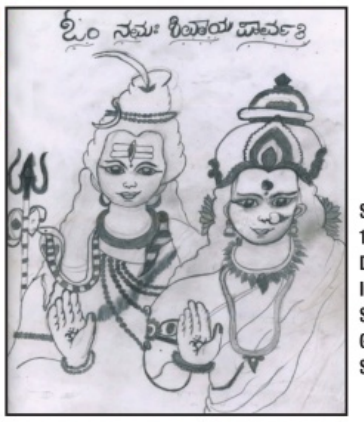
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel dull; your focus may be lost towards your targets, you may hypothetically take some decision, which may be seen beyond reality. Your expectation may be very high and because of impatience you are not able to fulfill your expectation; you may be upset. You are advised to be careful in adventure tours and rash driving.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your creativity may be high; you may plan to renovate the house. You may buy some stuff to renovate your house or office, which may increase social status. There is likely to be some harmony with the spouse, it creates harmony in the domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers and partners may be settled down.

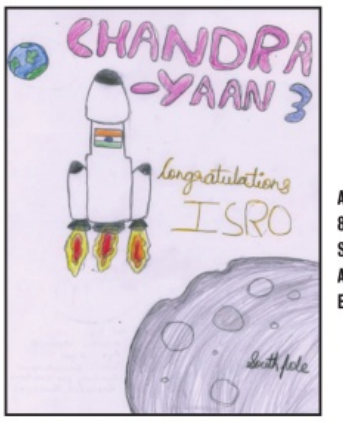
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today your creativity may be high; you may attend some creative event. Your money which was stuck, may be recovered now. Jobseekers are advised to update their knowledge with the latest one. Students are advised to input some more effort in their academics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be busy in kid's academics; you may plan for their higher studies also. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may think to update yourself and make some plan for higher studies to get a promotion in the current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

KIDZONE



Shivani, 12 years, Delhi International School, Gurupura, Shivamogga



Advika Munnolli, 8 years, Saaddeepani Academy for Excellence

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2²-3², 2²(2⁴-3²), 4(7), 28

RIDDLER
News Paper Clip, Eye Brow Beat, Lady Finger Print, Pig Tail End, Bed Time Piece

FAST FIVE

R	O	T	I	S
E	Z	I	N	E
S	E	R	A	C
A	N	E	N	T
W	A	D	E	S

BULL'S EYE
argyle, gale, gate, gayer, gear, glare, grate, great, GREATLY, grey, gyrate, gyre, lager, large, rage, regal

STRIKE OUT

D	R	E	A	D	F	U	L		M	E	A	D		
	I		B		R		E	C	U	R		I		
L	O	O	K	E	D	A	T		R	A	N	G		
	L		L		W		N	O	A	S		E		
Y	E	A	H		F	I	D	D	L	E	R	S		
	M		S	A		D		R	U	T				
E	P	I	C	S		D	E	I	S	T				
A	N	I		O	A		R		T					
I	D	E	N	T	I	F	Y		G	A	V	A		
D		B	A	T		R		T		B		N		
I	M	A	M		T	E	A	B	R	E	A	K		
N		L	E	A	D	S		A		T		L		
G	O	D	S		P	H	A	R	I	S	E	E		

QUICK

R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	E	D				
	I		A		A		X		O		E			
A	N	N	P	U	R		A	V	O	W	E	D		
	A		A		L	A	M		T		E			
R	E	A	L	M	S		S	C	H	O	O	L		
	A		D		I			R		S		I		
A	P	O	C	A	L	Y	P	T	I	C				
	V		N		T		O		T					
I	O	D	A	T	E		I	M	B	U	E	D		
	R		R	A	N		O				E			
L	A	M	B	D	A		U	P	R	O	A	R		
	E		E						E			E		
V	I	E	N	N	A		R	O	S	T	O	V		
	D		I		R				S		I			
R	E	A	L	M	S		S	C	H	O	O	L		
	A		A		L	A	M		T		E			
K	A	N	P	U	R		A	V	O	W	E	D		
	I		A		X		O		E					
D	R	E	A	D	F	U	L		M	E	A	D		

MENSA PUZZLE
E: the number of white dots is increased by one each time, both vertically and horizontally, and all white dots are connected

QUOTE UNCODE
Storytelling reveals meaning without committing the error of defining it.

SUDOKU

2	6	5	1	7	4	3	8	9
8	9	1	2	3	6	4	7	5
7	4	3	5	9	8	1	2	6
5	3	6	8	4	1	7	9	2
9	7	2	3	6	5	8	1	4
4	1	8	9	2	7	6	5	3
3	2	4	7	8	9	5	6	1
1	8	9	6	5	3	2	4	7
6	5	7	4	1	2	9	3	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Us, Sue, Slue, Lunes, Unless, Unseals.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 6 + 9 + 3 = 11
Medium
7 + 9 – 3 + 3 = 16
Hard
5 – 4 + 5 x 6 = 36

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # SRK, Rashmika come together for ad

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's collaboration with actor Rashmika Mandanna has now piqued fans' interest. On Monday, a picture of SRK posing with Rashmika surfaced online, garnering netizens' attention

PARENTAL ADVISORY

Janhvi Kapoor reveals parents disapproved of her first relationship so it ended soon after

Janhvi Kapoor recently revealed that her parents Sridevi and Boney Kapoor did not approve of her first serious boyfriend and so their relationship ended soon after.

Spilling some beans on her first relationship, Janhvi said she used to meet her first ever serious boyfriend in hiding. The actress also added that she used to lie about him to her parents. However, the relationship ended soon because her parents didn't approve of it.

Janhvi also said that she realised that having your parents' approval and having transparency with them makes everything very easy. According to her, it makes you feel more confident about your decisions. On the latest episode of Swipe Ride, the actress also admitted that Bollywood has influenced her expectations on love a lot. Janhvi is rumoured to be dating Shikhar Pahariya. They have earlier dated and broken up. However, their recent frequent spotting together have sparked rumours that love has rekindled between them. Shikhar was also spotted with Janhvi's father, producer Boney Kapoor, at various events, including the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre launch in Mumbai. **— ETimes**

Skin-deep roles

Actor Kalki Koechlin has come a long way in her career. As she is gearing up for the release of 'Goldfish', she candidly opened up about how the colour of her skin limited her roles in Bollywood.

"Goldfish was special because complex, layered, sensitive and funny scripts like that are rare to come by. Anyway there are few roles for someone like me in the industry since the colour of my skin limits my roles in Bollywood, and this being about the identity of a half Indian, half Britisher was something I knew I was cut out for," she said in a press note.

In 'Goldfish', Kalki portrays the nuances of a loving daughter struggling with financial problems. Deepti Naval is also a part of it.

Sharing her experience working with Deepti Naval, Kalki added, "It was a pleasure to work with Deepti ji, she is quiet and yet so brilliant and surprising, I was always kept on my toes as she would come up with something on the spot and I'd have to react to it. I loved working with her."

'Goldfish' marks the return of Kalki to the theatres after four years. Kalki was last seen in 2019 Hindi movie 'Gully Boy'. The film will be out in theatres on September 1.

—ANI

Fighter's teaser has got fans excited

Fans of Vinod Prabhakar are excited about the teaser release of "Fighter." The film is directed by Nutan Umesh and produced by Somashekhar Kattigenahalli.

The teaser launch event was attended by prominent figures. Director Nutan Umesh shared that Vinod Prabhakar's loyal fanbase chose the film's title. Challenging Star Darshan attended the Muhurat ceremony to start the project, and the teaser was unveiled by the producer's father. The film is scheduled to premiere in October. Film's team said, "Fighter isn't just about physical battles; it deals with fighting injustice and for family. Vinod Prabhakar's transformation in the film has attracted attention, and producer Somashekhar invested in making this project impressive. The music by Gurukiran and the presence of heroines Pavana and Lekha Chandra have heightened excitement, especially with the return of actress Nirosha to Kannada cinema after a long gap. Fighter promises a mix of action and family drama that will touch the audience. The director and producers have put in extra effort to provide a stylish and complete cinematic experience."

Speaking at the teaser launch, Vinod Prabhakar said, ""In this film, I am a 'fighter' battling society's injustices." With this teaser, fans are eagerly awaiting the full story on the big screen."

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Students' lives

Arun Amukta is an advertisement film designer who has now graduated as a movie director. Arun is excited about the release of the title of his latest movie. The title Vidyarthi Vidyarthineeyare is about college students so it was launched by college students at different colleges across the state.

"The movie is about the conflict between teenagers and parents. I wanted to convey a message to society about how digital addiction is ruining youths and how parents are struggling to make their teenage children focus on academics and how difficult it is for the digital addicts to do that," said Arun.

Arun said Vidyarthi Vidyarthineeyare is his second movie. His debut as director in Sandalwood was Loosegalu. Elaborating on his second movie, he said that around 50 percent of the shooting was held in Bengaluru and Mysuru. "It will be a different movie for Chandan Shetty. His role has three shades in the movie. The other specialty of the movie is Prashant Sambargi who plays a police inspector. He debuts as an actor with this movie," the director said.

Vidyarthi Vidyarthineeyare is to be a story-driven film. The cast of the movie is Chandan Shetty, Prashant Sambargi, Amar, Bhavana, Manasi, Manoj Vivan, Bhavya and others.

A new tune

The movie Avalu Laila Alla Naanu Majnu Alla, based on the age group of 16 and 24 years, is ready for release shortly. A function was held recently at SRV Theater for the release of a romantic song – Neenu Hogo Dareeli – of the movie. Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Ba Ma Hareesh was the chief guest.

Ajay plays the lead while Niharika and Ashwini are paired opposite him. Dingri Naresh plays the sidekick to the hero. Ajay, apart from playing the lead, has bankrolled this movie.

Ajay said his father is a theater artist and is an inspiration for him to become an actor. "I came to Bengaluru from Raichur after graduation. I wanted to join coaching for Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) but my passion towards movies made me join Ninasam Acting Institute. I auditioned for many movies but in vain. Finally, I decided to bankroll this movie and play the lead," said Ajay.

He said the script of the movie by Yallu Punyakoti is very interesting.

"Yallu Punakoti has written the script and is directing the film. It is about how high school and college days and problems of falling in love," he said.